Fire Department – Severe Weather and Tornado Safety

Most tornadoes occur April through August between 3 and 9pm, but have been known to occur any time of the day or night.

**TORNADO WARNING** A tornado has been sighted or is strongly indicated by radar.

**TORNADO WATCH** There is a strong possibility of a tornado developing in the area. A tornado has not been seen, but conditions are very favorable for one to occur at any moment. Weather may include hail and damaging winds.

Local Warning Sirens in Oakland County are activated when the National Weather Service issues a Tornado Warning or a Severe Thunderstorm Watch. Seek shelter immediately and listen to the radio or television for more information.

In your home, a basement offers the greatest safety. In a home without a basement, take cover in the center of the house, in the lowest floor in a small room such as a closet or bathroom or under sturdy furniture. In a manufactured/mobile home or garage door before you depart from your home.

Weather months, deter burglars by closing and locking all windows, doors, and garage. People or groups engaging in the act of soliciting, such as charity, political, or religious organizations are required to register with the City Clerk’s Office. Persons or groups engaging in peddling (offering goods or services for profit) are required to obtain a license from the City Clerk’s Office. Approved peddlers will be provided a City-issued photo ID tag that they must adhere to the exterior of their clothing while peddling within the City.

Soliciting/Peddling may occur only between 10am and 8pm, whichever is earlier.

**Attention All Homeowner Associations:** The City Clerk’s Office maintains a list of contact information for all Homeowner Associations. This enables the City to notify associations of upcoming developments, road projects, etc., that may affect your subdivision. Please submit updated contact information annually, or as contact information changes.

Police Department

**Lock Out Burglars**

Residents who locked their doors had 15% fewer burglaries last year. Residents who left their doors unlocked experienced a 78% increase in burglaries. During the warm weather months, deter burglars by closing and locking all windows, doors, and the garage door before you depart from your home.

**Protect Valuables in Your Car**

Members of an out-of-state gang were arrested last summer after breaking into 14 cars. The gang members did not enter a single car unless a purse was in sight. Please protect your head. At work or school, move to interior hallways or small rooms on the lowest floor.

**Another “Big Bite” Taken Out of Crime in 2013:**

- **Lowest in Group A Crime total in 19 years**
- **Most serious six crime categories down 9%**
- **Six year serious crime comparison down 22%**
- **Lowest number of auto thefts in the 40-year history of Farmington Hills**
- **The total number of armed robberies and the total number of burglaries were each the third lowest in City history**
- **Farmington Hills climbed in the National Safe City ranking for populations over 75,000**
- **Farmington Hills is the second safest city in Michigan and the 44th safest city in the nation**

Oakland County has outdoor warning sirens (nine in Farmington Hills) located on fire stations, utility poles or buildings throughout the county with sirens capable of covering about a one-mile radius. When sirens are activated, a three-tone tone indicates a tornado has been sighted or is strongly indicated on radar and/or a severe thunderstorm with 70 mph winds or greater is in the area. The signal is designed to alert citizens who are outside, but people inside buildings may also be alerted if they are close to the siren location.

Regular testing of the sirens will be on the first Saturday of each month at 1pm on June 7, August 2, September 6, October 4, and November 1. Sirens are not activated in December, January or February.

**Emergency Kits**

The Farmington Hills/Farmington Emergency Preparedness Commission (EPC) urges residents and businesses to have a 72-hour disaster “Go Kit” which should contain:

- **Flashlights**
- **Extra Batteries**
- **Bottled Water**
- **First Aid Kit**
- **Canned Foods**
- **Can Openers**
- **Battery Operated Radio**
- **Extra Clothing**

As always, any time that you have a life safety emergency, call 9-1-1. Fire Department – Severe Weather and Tornado Safety

Important Deadlines: July 7, 2014: Last day to register for August Election October 6, 2014: Last day to register for November Election

Notice to Voters in Precincts 22 and 23: Precinct Location Change – Effective Immediately

Farmington Hills voters in Precincts 22 and 23, who previously voted at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, will now be voting at St. John Lutheran Church at 32255 Gill Road, Farmington Hills, 48333 for all future Elections. The location change was required due to the closing of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church. New Voter ID cards were mailed to all affected voters in mid-April. If you did not receive your new Voter ID card or have further questions regarding this location change, please contact the City Clerk’s Office at 248-871-2410.

Absentee Ballot Drop-Off: Please note that the drop box on the north end of the building near 11 Mile Road in front of the Police Department has been removed. Please use the drop box, located on the wall near the south entrance of City Hall, for all Election or tax-related materials or return them directly to the appropriate City Office.

New Election Law Requirements: Please note the new photo ID requirements for in-person voter registration and in-person absent voter ballot issuance – in-person voter registration applicants are required to provide photo identification. (Mail-in voter registration applications are not subject to this new ID requirement.) A voter who obtains an absent voter ballot in person at the Clerk’s Office is required to present photo ID. If a person does not present photo ID when registering to vote in person at their local City Clerk’s Office, County Clerk’s Office or any Secretary of State branch office and/or when obtaining an absent voter ballot in person at their local Clerk’s Office, they will be required to sign an Affidavit of Person Not in Possession of Photo ID. Visit www.fhgov.com for detailed information on obtaining an absent voter ballot, precinct locations, maps, and more.

Soliciting/Peddling: Persons or groups engaging in the act of soliciting on behalf of charitable, religious or political organizations are required to register with the City Clerk’s Office. Persons or groups engaging in peddling (offering goods or services for profit) are required to obtain a license from the City Clerk’s Office. Approved peddlers will be provided a City-issued photo ID tag that they must adhere to the exterior of their clothing while peddling within the City. Soliciting/peddling may occur only between 10am and 8pm or sunset, whichever is earlier. Solicitors/peddlers are not permitted to enter onto property or into any subdivision that is signed “No Soliciting or No Peddling.”

Attention All Homeowner Associations: The City Clerk’s Office maintains a list of contact information for all Homeowner Associations. This enables the City to notify associations of upcoming developments, road projects, etc., that may affect your subdivision. Please submit updated contact information annually, or as contact information changes, to joinus@fhgov.com or fax it to the City Clerk at 248-871-2411.

The new water tower, a signature landmark in the City of Farmington Hills, will be fully operational this summer. The City and the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner received an Award of Excellence for the project from the Michigan Concrete Association.
The Beautification Commission presents annual awards to businesses, offices, and subdivision or condominium entrances with attractive and well-maintained landscapes. Judges visit nominated sites to look for landscape variety, imaginative use of color, and overall property maintenance. If you would like to nominate your property or any other deserving property, nomination forms are available after May 9 at www.fhgov.com or call the Community Development Office at 248-871-2543 to have a form faxed or mailed. Judging takes place during the month of July. Awards will be presented at the 2014 Beautification Commission Awards Ceremony in late fall.

Planning Division

**Annual Plant and Seed Swap**

May 17 at Heritage Park

Get your garden ready for spring with the Beautification Commission's 14th Annual Spring Plant and Seed Swap on Saturday, May 17 from 8:30 to 10:30am. The event takes place – rain or shine – at the Heritage Park Visitor's Center parking lot, located off Farmington Road between Ten and Eleven Mile Roads.

Every year, both amateur and Master Gardeners come armed with plants from their gardens, eager to swap them for new and sometimes exotic species. So come prepared, bright and early, with gloves, wagons, and your favorite plants and seeds to exchange.

The Beautification Commission, Garden Club members, and Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and provide refreshments. For more information, call Charmaine Kettler-Schmult in the City’s Community Development Office at 248-871-2543.

**Housing Discrimination Notice**

City Recognized for Environmental Leadership

Farmington Hills received a Gold Seal of Achievement for environmental leadership at this year’s Michigan Green Communities Conference, recognizing the City’s leadership in natural resource conservation, green economic development, energy efficiency, and environmental improvements.

**Treasury/Assessing Office Reminders**

- Property tax bills are mailed around July 1 and may be paid without penalty through August 31. After that, late penalties are assessed progressively up to 7% by the following February. Postmarks are not accepted by the City.
- Tax bills are mailed to the address of record and not forwarded by the post office, except for temporary forwarding orders.
- By law, failure to receive a property tax bill does not waive the tax bill or any charges for late payment.
- Every property should receive a property tax bill, even if the tax bill is to be paid via an escrow account. If you do not receive a summer property tax bill/statement by the end of the first week of July or if you have any questions about your property taxes, call the Treasurer’s Office at 248-871-2480.
- If you have questions regarding your property assessment or taxable value, call the Assessing Division at 248-871-2470.

AquaTec – What's New?

- Call the Aquatic Staff at 248-473-1834 for details about programs at the Costick Center Pool.

MICHIGAN GREEN COMMUNITIES GOLD

**Spring Maintenance Tips**

- Change your furnace filter. This should be done on a regular basis. Many homeowners forget to do this after the heating season ends and before the cooling season begins.
- Many do-it-yourself projects and those by contractors require a building, electrical or plumbing permit. Permits and inspections ensure that projects are completed correctly, reduce unsafe or hazardous conditions, and are required by state and local regulations. Contact the Building Division at 248-871-2450 with any building questions.

The Beautification Commission presented the Beautification Commissioners’ Award to Corrosion Fluid Products, located on Indoplex Circle, in recognition of the site’s colorful planting and maintenance.

The Beautification Commission's 14th Annual Spring Plant and Seed Swap is scheduled for Saturday, May 17 at the Heritage Park Visitor’s Center parking lot, located off Farmington Road between Ten and Eleven Mile Roads. Every year, both amateur and Master Gardeners come armed with plants from their gardens, eager to swap them for new and sometimes exotic species. So come prepared, bright and early, with gloves, wagons, and your favorite plants and seeds to exchange. The Beautification Commission, Garden Club members, and Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and provide refreshments. For more information, call Charmaine Kettler-Schmult in the City’s Community Development Office at 248-871-2543.

The Housing Discrimination Notice is a reminder that housing discrimination is prohibited by law. For more information on housing discrimination, visit www.hud.gov/fairhousing. If you have a housing discrimination complaint, contact the Michigan Department of Civil Rights at 313-456-3700 or the HUD hotline at 1-800-669-9777 or 1-800-927-9275 (TTY).

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Pool lessons are offered for all ages at the Costick Center pool.
### Public Services Department

**2014 Road Construction**

**Farmington Road from 10 Mile Road to 12 Mile Road:** This section of roadway will be rehabilitated from late April through September. The work will involve the reconstruction and resurfacing of the pavement, plus installation of a sidewalk on the east side of Farmington Road from Ridgeway Road north to 11 Mile Road. This project also includes installation of water main and sanitary sewer in several areas that currently do not have these utilities. Farmington Road traffic in this area will be maintained in a one-way southbound direction only.

**10 Mile Road from Orchard Lake Road to Farmington:** This section of roadway will be rehabilitated from late May through September. The work will involve the reconstruction and resurfacing of the pavement, plus sidewalk installation on the north side of 10 Mile Road from Power Road to west of Raphaeel and on the south side of 10 Mile Road from the intersection of Orchard Lake Road to Power Road. Ten Mile Road will be closed to all traffic except for business owners at the east end of the construction and property owners that front the roadway.

**14 Mile Road at Northwestern Highway:** The east portion of the proposed roundabout at 14 Mile/Orchard Lake Road/Northwestern highway will begin later this year. This includes the permanent closing of 14 Mile Road from just east of Northwestern Highway to Heather Heath Lane, and the relocation of this section of road so that 14 Mile extends southwestward and ends at Northwestern Highway, just east of Highview Avenue. The main portion of the roundabout work at 14 Mile and Orchard Lake is projected to occur in 2015.

**Middlebelt Road north of Northwestern Highway:** This Road Commission for Oakland County lane improvement project was deferred from 2013. It involves filling in a gap to allow for a continuous right turn lane just north of Olde Franklin Drive. Construction is scheduled to start in June.

**Road Improvement Special Assessment Districts:** Lakeshills Drive and Westhill Street will have their roads reconstructed this summer.

**Disposal of Tree Limbs and Logs**

Large tree limbs and logs (larger than 6” in diameter) are not picked up as part of the normal curbside trash or yard waste removal. If a contractor or landscaping firm is responsible for cutting or trimming the trees, then the removal of the wood and debris should be included in their contract.

If the property owner is responsible for the cutting or trimming, then call the DPW at 248-871-2850. You will be given contact information and the current Waste Management phone number to call for a special request pick-up and a cost quote.

**Prevent West Nile Virus**

- Reduce areas where mosquitoes breed by eliminating standing water in toys, buckets, flower pots, tires, pet water bowls, unused pools, bird baths, clogged rain gutters, and other containers.
- Creeks and retention areas that are healthy and running are not considered a prime area for mosquito breeding.
- Use insect repellent against mosquitoes, but follow manufacturers’ guidelines and don’t use on children younger than two.
- Wear protective clothing such as long sleeves and pants.
- Mosquito-proof your home - keep mosquitoes outside by fixing or installing window and door screens.

For more info, go to www.oakgov.com/health or www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus.

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**Holiday Delays for Garbage, Recycling and Yard Waste Pickup**

**Memorial Day: Monday, May 26**

Monday – No collection scheduled. All pickups delayed by one day during that week with Friday’s collection on Saturday.

**Independence Day: Friday, July 4**

Friday – No collection scheduled. Regular pickups on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Friday’s collection will be on Saturday.

**Labor Day: Monday, September 1**

Monday – No collection scheduled. All pickups delayed by one day during that week with Friday’s collection on Saturday.

To ensure pickup, have your garbage at the curbside by 7am and limit containers to a 12 gallon, 60 pound capacity.

The last week of yard waste pickup will be the week of November 24.

**Recycling Dos and Don’ts**

**DO**
- Only recycle items on your recycling cart.
- Follow the reference list of acceptable materials on the cart lid.
- Place heavier items on the bottom to prevent the cart from blowing over on windy days.
- Don’t pile extra items next to the recycling cart. Only recyclable items that are in the cart will be recycled.
- Don’t put any plastic bags or garbage in the recycling cart.

For more information, call the DPW at 248-871-2850 or visit www.fhgov.com

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**HazMat Day: Saturday, May 10 at OCC Orchard Ridge Campus**

The City of Farmington Hills, in cooperation with Oakland Community College, will hold its annual Household Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Drop-off Day on Saturday, May 10 from 9am until 2pm. The event will take place at the OCC Orchard Ridge Campus in the northwest parking lot with access off Orchard Lake Road. Residents of Farmington Hills, Farmington, Novi, South Lyon, Southfield, Walled Lake, and Wixom are all eligible to attend with a driver’s license or other proof of residency.

A variety of common household items will be accepted including oil-based paints, batteries, automotive fluids, pesticides, expired medications, aerosols, CFL bulbs, mercury, propane, and more. All containers must be labeled, not hold more than five gallons or weigh more than 50 pounds, and should be in a sturdy box on the floor or in the trunk.

Household electronic equipment is also accepted at HazMat Day such as televisions, radios, VHS and DVD players, and computers including peripheral devices. Residents may also bring up to 100 pounds of sensitive documents for shredding on site.

The following items are not accepted: commercial or business waste, unknowns over five gallons, smoke detectors, radioactive waste or explosives. Latex paint is also not accepted, because it’s not considered hazardous waste. To get rid of latex paint, add kitty litter or sand to dry out the paint left in the can. Then put it at the curbside with the lid off for pickup with the regular garbage.

For a complete list of acceptable items, visit the Recycling Authority’s website at www.mrascc.org or call 248-208-2270. Farmington Hills residents who can’t attend on May 10 may go to any of the other regional HazMat events listed on the RRASGC website.

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**Ice Arena**

**Eighteenth Annual Ice Show:** Friday, May 9 at 7pm or Saturday, May 10 at 4pm. Skating to WSKR Radio showcases Skating Club members, Synchronized Skating Teams, and Learn-to-Skate students. Purchase tickets at the Ice Arena or Costick Center. $8 adults (19 & up); $6 Seniors (65 & up) and Students (6-18).

**Learn-to-Skate:** Group instruction for students ages three to adult. Summer Session I begins June 17 with registration beginning June 2. Summer Session II begins July 29 with registration beginning July 14.

**Hockey Schools:** Future Pro Goalie, Total Package Hockey, Mannino Hockey, Turcotte Stickhandling Hockey, Elite Brigade Hockey, Puckmasters Hockey Training, Laura Stamm Power Skating,obby Giantz Power Skating, and Pro Ambitions Hockey Schools are all available throughout the summer.

**Public Skating:** Skating times are offered just about every day of the week for all ages. Visit fhice.com or call 248-478-8800 for the monthly public skating schedule or for program information.

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**The Cultural Arts Division** offers a diverse range of music, art and theater classes year round.

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**The Focus** is printed on recycled paper with a 30% post-consumer waste content. Please recycle this newsletter when you are done with it.
Special Services Department

Recreation Division

Check out the City’s summer camps! Over 1,000 kids each year attend licensed day camps and specialty camps at Heritage Park, Costick Center, Jon Grant Center, and other locations. Campers make new friends, create memories, and gain self confidence in camps focusing on sports, arts, nature, and more!

**New for 18+**: Rock/roll leagues, Hop Hop ABS, Total Body Mix, Real Women Fitness AM Class, plus favorites like Zumba, Z-Box, and camp for adults. Spring sessions begin the weekend of May 5; summer sessions begin the week of June 30.

**Nature Center**: Free, and open to the public – 10am – 5pm, Monday – Saturday; noon – 5pm Sundays. Nature Center programs include Garden Workshops, Outdoor Yoga, Kid’s Fishing Day, Coffee & Stroll, Walk with a Doc, Junior Naturalist Club, Homeschool Nature Programs, and more. For info on Scout badge programs, birthday parties or nature camps, call 248-477-1135.


New in 2014: Founders Sport Park Fishing Pier opens in May. Riley Archery Range in Heritage Park expects to open this summer.

Don’t miss these great events:

Summer Solstice Celebration: June 21, 21 - 3pm in Heritage Park (the longest day of the year)! Take a hayride, learn how to make strawberry jam, and more.

**Fire** Summer Fun at the Nature Center: June 16 - August 20. Mondays – Story and Scavenger Hunt, 2pm; Wednesdays – Nature Hike, 2pm; Fridays – Friday Night Fires, 7pm (June 13 and July 11 and August 8).

**Youth Soccer League**: Registration Fall Youth Soccer for K-1, grades 2-3, and grades 4-5 registration deadline is July 25. For info on adult and youth sports leagues, go to www.fhgov.com.

**Marshmallow Fly & Fry**: August 19, 5 – 8pm. Watch more than 1,000 marshmallows fall from the sky! Sponsored by Bausch & Lomb Federal Credit Union.

Splash Bash: August 25, 6 - 10pm. Head to Heritage Park and play in the splash pad, do crafts, and play games, plus see the movie Epic at 8:30pm in the park – all FREE!

Check out the 2014 Special Services Summer Brochure for hundreds of other wonderful opportunities for fun and fitness.

Youth & Family Services

Over 11,000 youth in 5-8th grades have participated in the After School Program since its inception/18 years ago!

**NEW! POP Summer Drop-In Center** begins June 30 – August 15. Ice Arena 2nd Floor. Open to incoming 5th graders and current 5th - 8th graders. $285 for the eight-week program, plus $10 for the After School youth membership fee. Open 10am – 5:30pm, Monday – Thursday. For a nominal fee, **Summer Drop-In Youth Members** can attend one of 26 field trips, including a zip line and ropes course, a Lansing Lugnuts game, canoeing/fishing, and new this year, a field trip to Imagination Station in Toledo! Fridays are water park field trip days. Register in advance at the Costick Center.

School begins on Tuesday, September 2. All upper elementary and middle school students are welcome at their favorite Youth Center, open immediately after school until 5:30pm. The cost is a $50 membership fee for the entire 2014-2015 school year. Call 248-473-1841 for more information.

City Directory

**Call**: 248-871-2500 | **Visit**: www.fhgov.com | **E-mail**: info@fhgov.com

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<th>City Directory</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Costick Center</td>
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Adults 50 & Better

The Center for Active Adults offers classes, fitness programs and special events at the Costick Center. For more info, call 248-473-3830 or visit www.fhgov.com and click on Departments/Adults 50 & Better to view “The Messenger” monthly newsletter.

**First Friday Ballroom & Buffet**: Enjoy ballroom dancing, a delicious buffet, and music by the Mike Wolverton Band most every first Fridays each month, 3 – 6pm. All levels of dance, couples and singles welcome.

Dates: May 2, June 6 and August 1. Purchase tickets by Monday before the event for $10 or $12 after. Resident member discount $3.

**No Senior Left Inside**: Celebrate National Senior Health and Fitness Day on Wednesday, May 28 in Heritage Park at the Nature Center and Spicer House. The morning will begin with a mind health fair, a morning stretch, and a presentation by a naturalist, followed by a healthy boxed lunch and musical entertainment. The afternoon will feature guided short or long hikes, a sampler Tai Chi or yoga class, and a tour of the Nature Center. Sponsored by Botsford Hospital. Participants must pre-register by May 23. Fee $5.

**Blueberry Cookie Sale**: The famous blueberry cookies will be sold at Art on the Grand on June 7 and 8. Look for the booth on Grand River Avenue. Proceeds support Senior Transportation.

**Pies On The Grand**: Pie baking July 15 & 16. Join the kickoff of the Blueberry Pie Sale with a good old-fashioned Pie Eating Contest 12:30pm on Thursday, July 17 in Conway Hall at the Costick Center. Pies will be sold at the Costick Center on July 17 & 18. Proceeds support Senior Transportation. To pre-order, call 248-473-1830.

**Swim, Bike, Hike – Come Try A Fun Mini Triathlon**: June 10, 2-5pm. Begin in the Costick Center pool with a swim, then bike to Heritage Park, and end at the Nature Center for a brisk hike with a healthy boxed lunch and musical entertainment. The afternoon will feature guided short or long hikes, a sampler Tai Chi or yoga class, and a tour of the Nature Center. Sponsored by Botsford Hospital. Participants must pre-register by May 23. Fee $5.

**Blueberry Cookie Sale**: The famous blueberry cookies will be sold at Art on the Grand on June 7 and 8. Look for the booth on Grand River Avenue. Proceeds support Senior Transportation.

**Shredding For Safety**: June 10, 10am - 12pm. Protect your identity! Bring up to four paper grocery bags of sensitive documents to be shredded in the Costick Center parking lot.

**Concert In The Courtyard**: Celebrate the end of summer with an evening of live music, light refreshments, and appetizers in the beautiful Costick Center Courtyard. Tuesday, August 19, 6 - 9pm.

**Newcomer Welcome Tour**: August 21, 10:30 – 11:30am. Adults 50 & Better, from Farmington Hills and Farmington, tour the facility and learn about services, trips, classes, and activities. Welcome packet includes a coupon for a complimentary lunch, gym class, swim or line-dance class.

**Seventh Annual Free Total Wellness Fair**: September 16, 10am – 1pm. Exhibits on exercise, holistic healing, healthy cooking, health screenings, chair massages, housing, and more.

Cultural Arts Division

2014 Festival of the Arts Free Family Day
Saturday, May 3, 10am – 4pm at the Costick Center. See artists at work, and enjoy art displays with over 200 framed and unframed paintings for exhibit and sale, exciting hands-on art activities for children, and ongoing entertainment!

**Art on the Grand**
Grand River Avenue in Downtown Farmington
Saturday, June 7, 7pm – 10pm, and Sunday, June 8, 11am – 6pm. Artwork for sale by over 100 artists from across the country including paintings, glass, pottery, jewelry, photography, and more! Children’s hands-on activities, food, and entertainment.

Mercedes Benz Financial Services
Free “Stars in the Park” Concert Series
Thursdays at 7pm at the Heritage Park Amphitheater Rain-out site: Costick Center. For information, call 248-473-1848.

**June 10**: FCB Concert Band – Pop, swing, jazz & more

**June 26**: ALLENASTIM – Tim McGraw tribute artist

**July 3**: No concert

**July 10**: ROCK AND SOUL – The best of pop & oldies

**July 17**: ATLASSAZ – a wide variety of jazz, R & B and rock

**July 24**: BILLY BRANDT AND THE SUGARIES – Eclectic fun

**July 31**: FCB BIG BAND – Vocal and Big Band selections

**August 7**: PERSUASION – According to Fox News: “the hottest band in Metro Detroit”

**August 14**: THE CRANE WIVES – A great new eclectic indie band

**August 21**: THE PIESLEY FOG – A combination of 60’s hits, British & American

**August 28**: FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CHOIRUS – Over 60 vocalists